

WEDNESDAY **REGULAR MEETING**
 7:00 P.M. **DECEMBER 1, 2010**

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence by President of Council Regis McLaughlin with the following Members of Council present:

**RC-1 PRESENT: REGIS McLAUGHLIN, ALFRED
 TEDESCO, JR., FAWN WALKER,
 MICHAEL CHEREPKO, DARRYL
 SEGINA, LORETTA DIGGS, RICHARD
 DELLAPENNA**

Reverend Warren Smith of St. John's Lutheran Church led the prayer.

Also present were Mayor James Brewster, City Administrator Dennis Pittman, City Solicitor J. Jason Elash, and members of the Administration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**MOTION: Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr.
 Dellapenna, "To approve the minutes for the
 Public Hearing of November 2, 2010 and the
 Regular Meeting of November 3, 2010."**

**RC-2 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER,
 CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA . 7**

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. McLaughlin said before they get into the Communications, the Mayor/Senator has some Proclamations he would like to give out.

- Mayor Brewster said they have a big crowd so he will try to do this quickly so folks can leave if they choose and because they have a very important Agenda tonight. He said he would like to ask Sheriff Mullen, Chief Washowich and Todd Gebis to come up. He said they are going to ask Deputies Scott McCarthy and Anthony Fratto to also come up to the front. He said Anthony is not here yet or may be in the back. He said when he was on Council, he can remember getting the phone call about Officer Miller who passed away in their City through a tragic event. He said as a Councilman, he can remember how gut-wrenching that was to all of them and to some of them who were on the force at that time. He said anytime he gets a phone call about one of his employees or friends, or in this case, one of the officers and he finds out something tragic has happened or has almost happened, it causes him to take a step back and recognize how lucky he really is. He said Todd has been one of their finest police officers and has been a big help to him as Mayor. He said when he got the phone call that Todd had an event at the Courthouse on one of the cases representing the City, only to find out that two colleagues, Deputy Sheriffs McCarthy and Fratto, who were working for Sheriff Mullen who is a good friend of his, knew what to do and were willing and took the time to help Officer Gebis. He said had it not been for their performance and their abilities, Officer Gebis might not be standing here. He said they are real happy for Todd and his family. He said he wanted to show special recognition to these men. He said he asked Patty Williams to read one of the recognitions. He said it is the same verbiage for both men.
- Ms. Williams read the Recognition:
Whereas, Deputy Scott McCarthy upon hearing of an "Officer Down" in the Allegheny County Courthouse on Monday, November 8, 2010, responded quickly and assessed the situation; and

Whereas, Deputy Scott McCarthy's training and expertise was clearly shown in saving the life of Patrolman Todd Gebis; and

Whereas, Deputy Scott McCarthy has served with pride with the Allegheny County Sheriff's Department; and

Whereas, the citizens of McKeesport, Patrolman Todd Gebis and his family and friends will be forever indebted to Deputy Scott McCarthy for his actions on the morning of November 8, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Mayor of the City of McKeesport, I do hereby deem it an honor and privilege to recognize Deputy Scott McCarthy and further extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to him for good health and happy times.

- Mayor Brewster said is Jim Miller here? He said would Jim please come up to the front of the room. He said one of the other things they wanted to do this evening ... he asked Jim if he had his coaches here with him this evening. He said Jim is on the Board of McKeesport Little Tigers and there are others here that he will introduce. He said Jim called him a couple of months ago and he was impressed and a little surprised because apparently they have over 20 young cheerleaders and football players from the City who are on the Honor Roll with a 4.0 average, with all A's on their report cards. He said he told Jim that they need to recognize these young people. He said he would like to thank Jim for helping the program get back on its feet. He said Jim will certainly give accolades to those who are here this evening that helped him. He said for all those naysayers, and they have a few, here is the City of McKeesport that often gets criticized but they actually do have some young bright people. He said even those who didn't get all A's are good kids. He said they just might not have the skill level in the classroom that others have. He said he is going to call their names and ask them to come up so the audience can see them and then the photographer is going to take them back out in the hallway so they can get a

nice group picture. He said if he mispronounces a name, they can blame Jim. He called out the names: Ryder Lewis, Devari Robinson, Jayden Bristol, Branson Smith, Sampson Brown, Jason Schmidt, Tyler Padezan, Nason Williams, Thomas Wyatt, Kaedon Hill, Clayton Holloway, Joseph Larotonda, Kennon Mikell, Blaze and Jayme Grabowsky, Ariana McCarthy, Myat Farr, Alyson Higdon, Carmen Coles, and Gabrielle Holloway. He said they are going to go back out in the hallway and the photographer from the Daily News will come out and take a picture. He said before they do that, Jim might want to say something first. He said he wanted to say something in front of Council, their coaches, parents and friends and that is that they are proud of them. He said the football and cheerleading is nice but they are proud of them because they did a good job in school. He said he would ask them to help their friends, the ones who got all B's or C's, because they need a friend too. He said if they do that, then some day they will sit up there and maybe run the City. He said thank you. He asked Mr. McLaughlin to give him a couple of minutes to get the picture taken with the children.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Received notification that the Festival of Trees will start tomorrow, Thursday, December 2, through Monday, December 6, 2010 from noon to 9:00 p.m.
- Received a McKeesport Weed and Seed Initiative Activity Report for the Month of October 2010.
- Received a copy of a letter sent by Timothy Gabauer, Superintendent, McKeesport Area School District, RE: New School Development.
- Received a copy of a letter that was sent by Mayor James J. Fleckenstein of the Borough of Versailles to Mayor James J. Brewster: "Dear Jim: Just a word of thanks for having your

department cover calls for Versailles Borough on last Saturday's midnight turn. We greatly appreciate McKeesport coming to the assistance of a neighbor in this unforeseen emergency."

- Mr. McLaughlin said are they going full time with them.
- Mayor Brewster said well, the template is there, it is in your hands.
- Mr. McLaughlin said maybe it is something to start anew.
- Received a letter from Representative Marc Gergely, 35th Legislative District, notifying the City that there is going to be a PennDOT Tour of the 35th Legislative District with a starting time of 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, December 15. Council and the Mayor are invited.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Brewster said there will be no reports this evening from the Department Heads. He said he is going to do two things he never does, actually three things. He said one thing is that he is going to do is, to read his resignation. He said those who know him, know that he never reads a prepared speech. He said that secondly he is going to use his glasses so he doesn't miss anything. He said thirdly, he is going to do something else he has never done and that is he is going to resign.
- Mr. McLaughlin said he wishes he would have worn his glasses more often in seven years.
- Mayor Brewster said it is a lot easier having them off than taking them off if you need to. He said you just might want to keep that in mind.
- Mr. McLaughlin said you just have to be quick.

- Mayor Brewster said he would like to start. He said this is a sad event for him in a lot of ways. He said he does want to tell Council that the Tax Anticipation Note has been paid off. He said he has a memo here that he is sure they will be copied on. He said the entire 2010 Tax Anticipation Loan that they got at the beginning of the year has been completely paid off. He said he wants to leave that because if they recall there were a couple of years they did not have the money to pay off the T/A note. He said those days are behind them. He said before he reads his resignation, since it is December 1, it appears that they will end 2010 with a fund balance. He said it is his hope that it will be \$500,000. He said they are very proud of that. He said it is a better starting point than it was in 2004 and in subsequent years. He said with the T/A note paid off and a starting fund balance for 2011, it is a good start but by no means will it make their job any easier. He said they will just know that they can start off with a zero debt obligation.
- Mayor Brewster read his resignation.

It is with a great deal of sadness that I tender my resignation as Mayor of the City of McKeesport, effective December 1.

I leave knowing that the City of McKeesport is better today than it was in 2004 when I took office, and I would be remiss if I did not try to summarize and highlight how it is that we have gotten to this point. We should talk about how we started the journey seven years ago.

When I took office, the City was somewhere between \$1.5 and \$2 million in the red. Morale was at an all-time low. Service levels had dropped off. Equipment had aged. Vendor contracts had skyrocketed. The cost of health care was escalating at an alarming rate. Municipal waste pickup and all of the basic, fundamental necessities that you have in your own homes or that every other community has could not have been in a worse condition.

Having said that, we put together a team. I must tell you that while these particular issues were obvious to most, I tried to take a macro-level approach to managing ... an approach that I learned in the private sector ... with fiscal conservancy, credibility and honesty being the kinds of things we needed to portray to the public. They had lost confidence in us as leaders, not just in McKeesport, but throughout the nation.

The first thing I wanted to do was to show the public in our own City and in the communities around us that McKeesport is capable of being a viable City where people can live safely, where people want to move in and build homes, where businesses large and small are welcome. We needed to show prospective residents and business owners we had a team in place that understood all the opportunities we could present with regard to tax incentives, working environment and infrastructure. To get to that point, I needed to find balance. I was determined to put an end to politics as usual, and I think that is an important, integral part of where this City goes in the future.

We need to learn from what we see happening in other communities and larger cities. We need to understand that we are media attention-getters ... that what we say, what we do and how we do it ... is news. The Daily News, which has been a part of McKeesport's business community for 126 years, has been kind to us. As our publication of record, it has highlighted the positive things this Administration has done for the people of McKeesport. That's the only way the public knows what we're doing with their money and how we are trying to improve their quality of life.

Therefore, when I took office, I was quick to ensure that nobody would be disadvantaged, nobody would lose their jobs, nobody would get demoted and that nobody would get fired. We were going to represent all people – young, old, regardless of race or religion, regardless of party affiliation.

It was important that people understood that this was the basic premise from which we were going to move forward. I must tell you there were friends who said that's not the way it works or that we should not reward people who aren't on our team. We had people who opposed everything we tried to do, and some continue to do that, but I will tell you that, seven years later, we have reached consensus. The naysayers are few. Those days are over, and I'm proud to say I took a leadership role in that.

I would hope this Council and the next Mayor recognize that we have a great staff in place. When I looked at the opportunity to become your State Senator, I talked to this Council about making sure there are no changes and making sure the City's Directors stay in their current positions so that we can continue this mission we started seven years ago. These individuals are good, quality people, some I inherited from the last Administration, and they've done a good job. We should recognize them for their performance and reward them for same, as these are difficult jobs with a tremendous amount of pressure and stress and with very little compensation.

Some of you will remember that when I took office I asked this Council to take a salary reduction along with the Mayor. We did that. I asked the five bargaining units to take a wage freeze. They did that. Many of the Directors and Deputy Directors took pay cuts up to as much as ten percent. We had some down periods, no question. I considered long and had the furlough of ten people. We did that. I was able to find eight of those ten people jobs. We still have two men that we need to get back to work. I have suggested that this Council does that very thing, because if we end up with a fund balance, which I know we will this year, we ought to use that money to bolster our workforce and return these men to their jobs. These are the things you think about 24/7. They should not be taken for granted when you're affecting

people's lives and businesses in a very difficult time as we see today.

The comments you hear about not wanting to be a "yes-man" for the Mayor or about being "independent" is bad advice when you are trying to work as a team. All that political fodder is disruptive and counterproductive and basically nonsense. Just take a minute, since everybody understands the Steelers, and imagine Mike Tomlin sending a play in to eleven players and in the huddle, three or four people decide they don't like the play and they send someone over to the coach and say they don't think they want to run that play. That is not a team, that is not how it works. Government is no different. Whatever analogy you want to use, how we do our jobs basically doesn't change, it is about the team and about the City and not about ourselves.

If you reflect upon the State of the City address that I gave three years ago, you will remember our discussion about City finances and the need for creative, innovative budget management in order to keep this City afloat.

The State of Pennsylvania wanted us to file for municipal bankruptcy in 2004 because we qualified under the guidelines of Act 47.

We were borrowing \$2.3 million a year in the tax anticipation note in January just to pay our bills. It was my goal to get that down to \$1 million before I left office. Now I think in this year's budget, I think they have \$1.5 million. They are borrowing \$800,000 less today with no tax increases in seven years, which is a good positive sign that they are making progress. It is my hope that this Council and this Mayor will get down to \$1 million.

I think it is very clear financially why we did what we did when you look at where McKeesport is at today and the effect of that effort.

With this City recovering from the downfall of the steel industry in the 1980's, that was our recession. We crawled and clawed with the help of many elected officials even before I got here and avoided municipal bankruptcy in today's economy with the second worst economic condition in the history of the world. Yet there were still people who questioned how we did it.

Some may debate how we were able to survive, and I find these arguments without merit. With the courage and support of this Council and some of the past members, we were able to improve infrastructure, take on new projects, maintain financial stability without raising property taxes for seven years. Because of the financial strategies implemented in this City, McKeesport's credit rating, determined by the analysts in New York, is higher today than it was seven years ago.

You might ask how we did that. While the sale of assets provides one-time infusions of money, it does not in and of itself, give you the comfort level of a consistent, new cash flow. I know that. It does, however, get you through periods of time during which expenditures exceed revenues, which they have the past 20 years. When you live in and manage a community with the highest poverty rate, the highest pre-recession unemployment rate and the highest percentage of families without fathers, the demographics do not lend themselves to increasing our revenues through the normal revenue streams ... that being wage tax, real estate tax, business privilege tax and mercantile tax. The journey to close the gap between revenues and expenditures will take a long time.

My plan and my strategy and vision was to fill those gaps with one-time sales and one-time infusions of new money while concurrently bringing in new business and building new homes, which we have done. We will start to see new

revenues over time to fill those gaps. But it will take years because the process is slow.

An example of some good financial planning was the effort put forth by City Administrator Dennis Pittman and Solicitor Jason Elash who worked with me and financial consultants to secure the City's pension fund. Without their effort, our employee pensions would be at risk and we would be facing the same dilemma as the City of Pittsburgh and other communities. We utilized the bond issue and spread out the debt so that it would be less intrusive to the taxpayers and ensure the pensions of our employees. Even though they didn't see it in their paychecks, it was important to me that we bolster their morale and let them know that we were willing to make sacrifices to stabilize their pension, which to this day remains in an acceptable condition. I would draw attention to the latest Hefren-Tillotson market survey, which indicates our pension plans now are making considerable money. I believe transferring those pension plans gave the City an opportunity to garner more revenue for individual plans under the City's purview. This was done through interviews that Mr. Pittman organized and which other officials such as myself, our Controller and Council members took part in. That is not an accident. That is a plan, trying to get the best possible return on our money. Others may have given up and let the situation get worse. We didn't.

Another issue affecting public and private budgets across the State and Nation is the ever-increasing cost of healthcare. Labor and management alike are trying to figure out how to maintain a solid healthcare plan for their employees and their families. Three years ago, we got word that our healthcare, approximately \$2.2 million a year, was going to go up 38 percent. We were able to partner with the McKeesport Housing Authority and the Municipal Authority of McKeesport to establish a combined healthcare program to obtain economies of scale. I am happy to report that this year we are going to see an eleven percent decrease in our

healthcare. I think that is an amazing feat in three years. That is not an accident and did not come easily. I want to thank our broker, who did an admirable job under the guidance of Dennis Pittman even while being questioned by other elected officials as to why his job was not being bid out. I hope the individuals who questioned this decision recognize now that it was an important position that now has paid dividends to this City and to the taxpayers. Mr. Pittman who worked closely with me and the broker to make this happen should be thanked. Concurrently I want to applaud the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 10, Teamsters Local 205 and our City employees because for the first time in history they are making contributions toward their healthcare coverage. We have broken new ground and I applaud them for that effort. These are people who do not make a lot of money but yet recognize that they were part of the team.

We negotiated two sets of contracts with five bargaining units. In every case, I felt we gave a fair wage increase. The union leaders stepped up and contributed beneficial suggestions. We now have part-time firefighters. We have reduced the size of government. All the things that you have heard about from Washington on down, your City has already done that in seven years. We have currently 142 full-time employees, down from 157 in 2003. We have 58 part-time employees compared to 26 in 2003. These part-time employees are highly skilled and heavily trained in their areas of expertise. The workforce is stronger, better trained and fairly compensated. I want to thank our firefighters and our police officers and our Teamsters for their willingness to sit and negotiate. These decisions were not pleasant and not easy, as I noted on other issues. But it's done and the door is open for continued negotiations on recommendations that they may find in the Delta Report. Mr. Elash should be given tremendous credit for his contributions with regard to the aforementioned contracts.

Some of these recommendations were apparent three years ago when I offered my State of the City Report and we are reminded of them with a recent fiscal study done by Delta Corporation. My presentation acknowledged McKeesport's need to decrease the gap between revenues and expenditures. That need and those conditions remain and we didn't need a study to tell us that. We know that. It's documented and chronicled in every single Council meeting, which is taped. So for those who think that the Delta Report was any surprise, go back to the tapes of past seven years and you will see that just about everything had been discussed by this Council.

The Delta Report, while not a mandate, provides recommendation for future negotiations and financial strategies. While most of the recommendations are from my Administration and my Department Heads, some pertain to solutions that have been applied in other communities with similar circumstances. This document should serve as a reference and, for the most part, be viewed as a positive report. I do, however, publicly oppose one recommendation and that would be increase of taxes. I stand on my position of the last seven years that raising taxes is a deterrent and a detriment to progress.

To worsen the impact of an already stagnant revenue stream, the City experienced significant cuts in its Federal Community Development funds. In 2003, McKeesport received more than \$1.5 million. By 2007, the allotment was reduced to \$950,000. This decrease meant there was an inability to demolish dilapidated buildings and the inability to pave roads. That is why we did another bond issue ... to do \$5 million in demolition, road repair, and to comply with a federal lawsuit that we inherited for handicap ramps. Where would we be had we not done more than \$2.5 million worth of demolition and nearly \$2.5 million in road resurfacing? Imagine if all of those blighted structures that were here seven years ago were still standing. Imagine how many roads would be in

disrepair. Imagine trying to encourage someone to buy a home or open a business in your City if all this had not been done.

We borrowed money, and the work was done. We did all of this, ladies and gentlemen, with no tax increase. Yes, there was an increase in some charges, such as the municipal service fee. But that wasn't to increase the General Fund. It was brought on by Pennsylvania's Growing Greener I and Growing Greener II programs which are good programs, which gave municipal waste carriers the opportunity to increase and transfer expenditures on to communities who then transferred that cost on to the taxpayer.

I would like to take time to highlight progress made in each of our City Departments. I know some of you may think this is long. I am almost done. It is hard to capsule and summarize seven years. It is important to recognize our accomplishments, including those outlined in Renaissance 2005. We established \$100,000 in new rental income in the in the public safety building where we are this evening and the new City Hall which by the way we acquired for \$1.00, a National Historic Building. The City has a new Social Security Building. We completed the Hometown Streets and the Elm Street programs. The City completed demolition programs and infrastructure improvements that were inviting to the more than 150 new businesses that are all proud to be in McKeesport today. I want to thank our employees and Department Heads for all they have done. They are to be applauded. I am extremely happy and satisfied as their Mayor. I am also thankful for the many volunteers who have donated countless hours to help make McKeesport better, the Joint Task forces and the McKeesport Ministerium just to name a few.

Our Fire Department received new turnout gear, and for the first time that I'm aware of, we actually had the firemen participate in purchasing new turnout gear. Your Fire

Department got the absolute best turnout gear on the market, by their standards, to keep the community safe. They designed themselves a brand new fire truck that's more conducive to the layout and needs of our City. We were able to finance that through Community Development money because our prior ladder truck had been paid off. They also designed, at my request, a state-of-the-art river rescue boat that you'll see in the river in the next 60 days. The Department also utilizes a mobile smoke house for demonstrations in McKeesport and neighboring communities. I want to applaud McKeesport Fire Department Chief Kevin Lust, his Deputies, his Captains and his staff for providing this City with first class fire protection from every aspect. They have been a class organization down to each and every firefighter, including the part-timers who have been a tremendous asset to us.

Our Police Department benefitted from economic stimulus funds and other grant programs. We were able to get five brand new police cars, which could not have been done with our general fund, to replace cars with 120,000 or 130,000 miles on them. We purchased new equipment and a mobile substation and expanded our forensic team. Our Department now boasts four K-9 Officers and Detective Bureau. The Department has made some of the largest arrests in the history of our City and the County. Yes, violence continues to spur up. We know that. One act of violence is too much, we know that, but if you check the statistics, from homicides on down, this Police Chief and his men and women have done an outstanding job. I want to applaud Chief Bryan J. Washowich, his Lieutenants, his Captain, Detectives and every Officer in that Department who works diligently every day to keep our City safe. I would categorize them as one of the best Departments in the State. I know what they do. I am out there with them. I am very proud of the fact that they have made McKeesport a safe place. Their creativity, their ability to react calmly in volatile situations, their willingness to meet

young people and participate in the City's Weed & Seed program ... all of these things have made them invaluable.

Our Public Works Department has taken on many projects but for the sake of time, I will limit it to a few. First, there are the new ballparks in Renziehausen Park. This is not to criticize any group or anybody. We were told that the likelihood of being able to do those fields because of the water was slim. We were able to build them with the help of Dan Onorato and the County and our Public Works Department. It was not easy, but they were built and they are now being used. Teams from throughout Western Pennsylvania come to McKeesport and boast of those fields in Renzie Park. Lake Emilie was completely drained and refurbished. The State Department of Environmental Protection said we needed to put \$80,000 into the dam and we did it for \$20,000. The goldfish pond hadn't held water for 40 years ... it was completely refurbished. Helen Richey Field, one of the classiest semi-professional baseball fields in the area, was redone, and that is something our High School teams can now be proud of. Also a monument was erected in honor of Helen Richey. The Charles Lickert Trail has been upgraded and will be expanded to the Palkovitz property in addition to Renzie Park. The Olympic Corner honors two gold medalists from different sports in two different Olympics – a feat probably held by no other City with 24,000 people. The Lions Club Band Shell was refurbished, pavilions upgraded, and the Rose Garden and Heritage Center maintained. And last, but not least, there is the thriving Renzie Senior Center, which I am proud to say with the help of Councilman Segina we were able to secure that building when it was completely empty and decimated when we took office.

Public Works Director Nick Shermenti should be commended for putting the City in touch with a nonprofit organization that assisted us with the Marshall Drive project. Nobody thought the project would happen. It was in the planning stages for over a dozen years. A \$1.2 million project that with the help

and leadership of Nick Shermenti we were able to do for \$750,000, which we received from Governor Ed Rendell and Senator Sean Logan. That's how government works effectively together. That's what it is like to have a partnership with your Mayor and your County Executive, your Senator and your Governor and your Congressman. We were able to negotiate these revenues and the City is better off for it. It is a safer roadway for Serra Catholic High School and the residents of Haler Heights. It now creates the potential for new businesses adjacent to Tom Clark Chevrolet. Along the same Route 48 corridor, a 15-year flood project was completed six years ago. And since the rain came the last couple of days it is probably appropriate to say that Tom Clark did not get flooded today and the waters were running down those streams. I didn't plan the rain, believe me, God knows rain follows me. I don't have to say that. I rode down there today and saw the manhole that is outside of town bubbling up, but where it came through McKeesport it was fine.

Community Development Administrator Bethany Bauer has led one of the only Community Development organizations in the County. Out of 130 communities, McKeesport is one of the last that exists. I cannot complement her enough. The projects that she has been able to facilitate, the paperwork, all these things that seem to happen overnight require an unbelievable amount of time and energy. My compliments go to her, her staff and to her leadership.

Often working in conjunction with our Community Development Department are organizations including the Blueprint Communities Initiatives, McKeesport Neighborhood Initiative, McKeesport Housing Corporation and McKeesport Development Corporation. These groups are struggling every day to build homes, to help taxpayers and to be good partners with this City. People who, like Les Petras, who says he is retired, but I still see him every day, so I am not sure he understands the meaning of it.... I don't want to single

people out because I will surely miss some. When you see new houses being built in a City with the poverty that we have and the economic times that we're in, I can't begin to tell you how difficult it is to get that done. They impress upon you the work and energy that is put into it.

Ray Dougherty has been busy drawing attention to one of the City's greatest assets – the riverfront. When I took office, there were 80 boats at the Marina out of the 200 potential slips and there wasn't much activity at the Palisades. Now they have a filled-to-capacity Marina, which now brings revenue into the City. With the help of Mike Joyce and his staff, the Palisades has come a long way in terms of events. It is now a destination point, as is the walking trail, which is now the trailhead for three trails. With those three entities, the vision that former Mayor Bendel had and the controversy he drew me into as Council President, I can tell you that he is up there smiling now because these are the things that he said we could get done. Ray's contributions, believe it or not, his real job is our system. Thanks to the Delta Report we are now able to reach out to the State and get funding so that Ray can upgrade our very antiquated system which all of you know is badly needed by our employees so they can do their jobs more efficiently.

In our Recreation Department, Jim Brown has done an outstanding job in bringing a variety of annual programs to the people of McKeesport. These are things we take for granted as elected officials ... the Easter parade, the Halloween parade, the fishing derbies, the carnivals, the concerts, trying to make sure the Little League, Girl's Softball, Little Tigers, the High School Team, Penn State all get adequate field time and that the fields are in good shape. He also works alongside the Recreation Board to bring McKeesport all the things it has to offer. This is not an eight to five job, these are weekends and evenings when people ask what are the staff members doing.

Patty Williams has been the City Clerk for a long time. She has chipped in at every opportunity to help us to be successful in the past seven years. She was there for us. She gave us guidance. She was able to reference and chronicle previous activity that might be germane to specific projects that we do today. Her knowledge and expertise is invaluable. She has always been supportive and always a good diplomat for our City. Without question, she has been the rock.

In a state with 2,559 communities, McKeesport is one of 15 municipalities that operates a Weed and Seed program to curb violence and criminal activity by reaching out to young people. We are proud to be one of them. Sherry Ward is in a position to show the public that McKeesport has a plan and a strategy to combat violence. Rather than reactive, we are trying to be proactive with the help of some of you on Council, or all of you.

When you speak about what we have done in McKeesport, it is almost as if our successes make the job look easy. But when you look around and see cities like Los Angeles, one of the largest in the nation, lay off 700 workers, other communities more affluent than us with \$2 million shortfall in their budget. The President recently said that 2 million employees would take a wage freeze. I think that puts in perspective how tremendous of a job you all have done. I think we are the envy of many and I didn't do it myself. I did it with the help of all the people I just mentioned and with the support of this Council and others who are not here tonight. I apologize if I have left people out. I know I have and I will make that up to them.

I would leave you with this thought. The unity, the leadership that elected officials must provide, the image that you project – is it to be one of chaos, disagreement, vindictiveness, and anger? Or is it going to be one of vision, harmony, unity and balance? You have the answer to those questions in the palm

of your hands, on the tip of your tongue. With everything you think and say, you can make those decisions. The battles that you're going to fight will be difficult and agonizing. And the future is bright if the right path is taken. There is no question there is work to be done. There is more demolition, more roads to be rebuilt, more businesses to bring in, and more homes to build.

We've covered an awful lot of ground in this resignation, but I felt some of these things needed to be said. People will be watching your behavior and I would say to you as friends, do for each other what you have done for me. Put your personal feelings aside, put your personal agendas aside and do what's best for the City of McKeesport and the people who live here. It's a great City with a great history, great resources and great people. Don't let anybody tell you any different.

Thank you and God Bless.

- Mr. McLaughlin said usually after a standing ovation you have to give a speech, but the Mayor already gave one.
- Mayor Brewster said he is done but there is one thing and Darryl would be actually cheated if he didn't do it. He has to say this to this Council because he knows it has been an issue that they have had to deal with as Council members. He said he knows they have worked hard on the budget and it is something they will get used to and they won't like it. He said he wanted to have some clarification so there is no confusion on this issue. He said for those who do not know, former Mayor Bendel and he with the help of Council members at the time, there was a referendum on the ballot I believe, the Mayor's salary was designated to be a certain percentage more than the City Administrator. He said he wanted to acknowledge that when he took office, he pulled Dennis aside and told him he would not get a raise as long as he is Mayor.

- Mr. Pittman said he keeps his promises.
- Mayor Brewster said the reason he said that to him is that Dennis understood and embraced it because if he were to give the City Administrator a raise, he would be giving himself a de facto raise because the Charter is clear that the Mayor should make 5% more than the City Administrator. He said he chose to take \$10,000 a year less than what the job called for. He said he would say this publicly, the next Mayor should take the whole salary. He said it was his intention to put that in if he stayed. He said he will earn every penny of it. He said he wanted to applaud Dennis because he took the job but never once asked for a raise and in fact last year he tried to give him one and he refused it. He said he thinks the people need to know that. He said for all the discussions about money, when you are running a City like McKeesport with the headaches you have and making \$60,000 as a Mayor or \$67,000 as a City Administrator is not a lot of money. He said he wanted to read something because the distribution of his deferred compensation, former Councilman McCall had asked him a couple of years ago and had approached Council to encourage him to take the appropriate salary and Council President McLaughlin approached him and he respectfully declined at the time. He said he wanted to read this to the public because he has been very consistent in this message long before the media clamored for transparency and credibility in government, they started that process right here in McKeesport and they didn't boast about it or talk about it. He said today he is going to leave by talking about it. He said he took office as Senator and one hour after taking office, he made it known that he would not be taking a state car, not be taking a per diem or a cost of living raise which he will be contributing to charity. He said he would like to read the memo regarding the deferred compensation that is due him as outgoing Mayor:

- *I have discussed with my family and my wife, the receipt of the deferred compensation from my tenure as Mayor. While we are not wealthy, we believe that instead of receiving this compensation, these funds should be allocated to the following organizations in the City of McKeesport. The money shall be used to help the youth, the seniors and the disadvantaged of McKeesport. These organizations are the foundations of our City and struggle everyday to survive. It is my hope that I will be able to continue to support these organizations and others that may not be on this list. The money is being donated in my family's name and I will work with the respective organizations to identify exactly how the money will be used and communicate same to the City Administrator for audit purposes. I will notify these organizations of their respective financial award on behalf of the Brewster Family. It will be my honor and my family's privilege to do that. Those organizations include but are not limited to: The McKeesport Boys Club, Christy Park United Methodist Church, Carnegie Free Library, The Intersection, Kiesell's Soup Kitchen on 5th Avenue, McKeesport NAACP, The Heritage Center, McKeesport Kiwanis, McKeesport Lions, McKeesport Little Theater, McKeesport Ministerium, Rose Garden, McKeesport Salvation Army, McKeesport Trail Council, McKeesport YMCA, Mon-Yough Education Consortium, Noah's Ark Community Center, The Palisades Non-Profit, The Renzie Senior Center, The Charles Lickert Trail, WomansPlace, Auberle, McKeesport Meals On Wheels, Hope House on Evans Avenue.*
- Mayor Brewster said he would like to present this Memo to the City Administrator and to the Council President and requests that these funds be distributed equally to

these organizations. He said he also respectfully submits this to Council as well.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

- Mr. Tedesco said he will be brief. He said he wanted to wish the Mayor/Senator good luck in the future. He said he also wanted to wish a Merry Christmas Season and Happy Holidays to everybody.
- Ms. Walker said she also wanted to wish the Mayor/Senator best wishes and good luck. She said she wanted to recognize that today is World AIDS Day and that is why she has her red pin on. She said also she wanted to give feedback on something the Mayor said about politics as usual. She said she hopes that moving forward they will follow his example with what he just did by giving a portion of his salary to those organizations. She said there has been a lot of good dialogue about the budget over the last couple of days, however since she started, she has been talking a lot about the public safety issues like the violence and demolition of some of the vacant houses. She said the dialogue was not the same as it was when it came to the budget. She said she can say to her colleagues that they are here to represent the people, they are not here to represent their own personal interests. She said they are here to represent the people as a whole, and that means every citizen in the City of McKeesport. She said so every issue should deserve the type of dialogue that the budget got. She said every issue should deserve them knowing what they are passing and knowing what is going on and knowing what is involved. She said that is why they are here, they are here to serve the people and every issue deserves that type of dialogue that the budget got. She said she thinks the citizens should hold them accountable to make sure that all issues get that type of dialogue because every issue deserves it.

- Mr. Dellapenna said he would like to wish the Mayor/Senator all the luck in the world. He said he would also like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and a safe one.
- Mr. Segina said he has a speech here too. He said he actually figured it out in dog years and the Mayor's speech went 15 years. He said but he has had longer ones though too. He said they met in the back this evening in regards to the Delta Project, the famous Delta Project that got so much ink at one time. He said this is something that is a tool for all of them to use to improve the City. He said when they go year after year, they can fall into a rut and can get into a routine of governing the City and running operations. He said after seeing and hearing everything that goes on and the remedies and solutions they have, they have to implement this to make this a better City. He said this idea for the Delta was from the Mayor himself. He said the Mayor told him to say that so he said it. He said it was under duress however. He said the benefits out of this are hoping this helps all of them to retrain their thoughts into developing new ideas, implementing new financial transactions, how they go about doing their business, and making it a better town. He said sometimes they get in a rut and this gives them some tools to overcome that. He said his doctor always tells him that he wants him to do this ... that he wants him to walk everyday at least four days a week every week. He said every time he goes there, he has been walking and tells the doctor that he listened. He said he tells the doctor that he listens to his advice because if he didn't, why would he be there. He said he is there to improve himself. He said he thinks that is what the Delta Report is going to do if they implement it and are serious about it. He said he knows he is going to be serious about it and would like to see those changes made. He said, of course he has to congratulate the new Senator and our old Mayor and wish him success in his new venture. He said he knows that he has gone through a lot of challenges and probably won't get as many grey hairs in his new job as he did here but it will still be strenuous. He said lastly, he wants to thank

everyone for attending this evening and showing the interest that they do in City government. He said it is their largest crowd of the year and he wants to wish them all Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- Ms. Diggs said she wants to congratulate our Senator and the next Mayor coming in. She said it seems like it hasn't been seven years. She said she is looking forward to running again next year. She said she doesn't know why but she is. She said she wishes the Senator and his family all the luck in the world. She said she also wants everyone to have a Prosperous New Year and a Happy Holiday.
- Mr. Cherepko said this is some crowd, there must be something important going on today. He said Senator Brewster, thank you for your time and service here. He said he knows the City is forever grateful for his time here. He said he personally wants to wish him the best of luck. He said it seems like the theme tonight has been this whole team and harmony and he thinks that is something that they need to work on as a Council and to continue. He said that is something that Senator Brewster has demonstrated to them throughout the last seven years and it is something they are going to work on now and into the future. He said there is nothing wrong with disagreements, they have had several of those, and they happen all the time. He said sometimes you just have to agree to disagree and that is the end of it. He said he wishes him the best of luck and everyone a safe and Happy Holiday.
- Mr. McLaughlin said he is last and there is really nothing left to say because everyone has said it all. He said Loretta said it didn't seem like seven years, but it seemed like seventy-seven years. He said it seemed like a long time. He said me and the Mayor go way back and had our battles. He said they always come out friends and shaking hands. He said if they think it saddens the Mayor to leave, it saddens him to see the Mayor leave because he won't have anyone to fight with

anymore. He said he wanted to wish Jim all the luck in the world and also to Linda and the rest of the family. He said he also wanted to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and Good Luck in the New Year.

- Mr. Segina said on that note he would like to nominate Regis McLaughlin to be Mayor.
 - Mr. McLaughlin said they have to go through the Agenda first.
 - Mr. Segina said they did not tell him that.

TABLED BILLS:

BILL #160: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE MANSFIELD BRIDGE.

Mr. McLaughlin said Bill #160 will remain on the Table.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE #10-21 – BILL #87: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE AND AMENDED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT COMBINED PENSION PLAN, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF SAID CITY.

MOTION: Mr. Dellapenna moved, seconded by Mr. Segina, "To adopt Bill #89."

ORDINANCE #10-24 – BILL #90: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 88-24, AS AMENDED; FIXING THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE FEE RATES FOR 2011.

ORDINANCE #10-25 – BILL #91: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE NUMBER AND COMPENSATION OF THE CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT; LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2011.

MOTION: Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Dellapenna, "To adopt Bill #91."

COMMENTS:

- Ms. Walker said is this the actual budget. She said where are they with the legal fees. She said is it staying where it was last night.
- Mr. Segina said these are the figures they had at the last budget hearing, correct.
- Ms. Walker said these are the figures from yesterday.
- Mr. Segina said that was Sunday.
- Mr. Tedesco said he has a comment to make on this if he may. He said like what Mike said earlier, they really fought and there were some heated arguments over this budget and there were some things that were fought for and some line items were changed and some were not. He said there are still some things that he may agree with and some things that he doesn't agree with in this budget. He said they don't have that option to line item this budget as Council members. He said he is going to vote his conscience here.
- Mr. Segina said where are they here.
- Mr. McLaughlin said the legal never changed, it stayed the same.

RC-7 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DIGGS,
 DELLAPENNA..... 5

 NAYS: TEDESCO, WALKER 2

RESOLUTION #2010-65 – BILL #92: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF DUQUESNE TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATION AND FUNDING ON

MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Cherepko, "To adopt Bill #92."

RESOLUTION #2010-66 – BILL #93: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING KNOWN AS B-11-MC-42-0106 UNDER TITLE I OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974 (PUBLIC LAW 93-383) AS AMENDED.

MOTION: Mr. Dellapenna moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco, "To adopt Bill #93."

- Ms. Walker said she has a question. She said what are these funds going to be used for.
- Mr. Pittman said Bethany will address that.
- Ms. Bauer said it is the annual allocation the City gets from the Federal government and it does things like renovations to homeowner's houses through the McKeesport Housing Corporation, it supports the Beat Police Program, it supports the Fire Truck lease payments and also supports the paver for the Public Works Department and staff salaries for the Community Development Department. She said it also pays for street paving, rodent control and that sort of thing.
- Ms. Walker said thank you.

RC-9 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO,
SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2010-67 – BILL #94: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.00 TOWARD POLICE VEHICLE EQUIPMENT USED FOR EFFICIENT PATROLS BETWEEN THE CITY OF McKEESPORT AND THE BOROUGH OF DRAVOSBURG, AND TO PLEDGE A \$25,000.00 CASH MATCH TO SECURE THE REQUESTED \$25,000.00 FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

MOTION: Mr. Dellapenna moved, seconded by Mr. Cherepko, "To adopt Bill #94."

RC-10 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO,
SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2010-68 – BILL #95: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE SITE PLAN SUBMITTED BY COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES, INC. OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF AN 18,279 SQ. FT. GROCERY STORE AT WALNUT STREET AND EDEN PARK BLVD., McKEESPORT, PA.

MOTION: Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco, "To adopt Bill #95."

RC-11 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO,
SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2010-69 – BILL #96: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF WHITAKER FOR THE HOUSING OF PRISONERS APPREHENDED BY THEIR SECURITY OFFICERS WHILE AWAITING TRANSPORTATION/DISPOSITION.

MOTION: Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco,
"To adopt Bill #96."

COMMENTS:

- Mr. McLaughlin said have they received anyone from Whitaker yet.
- Police Chief Washowich said no sir, they have not.
- Mr. Segina said are they going to patrol them too.

RC-12 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO,
SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2010-70 – BILL #97: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PREMIER SAFETY AND SERVICE, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF FEMA FIRE EQUIPMENT, CONTRACT 2 – PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,697.00.

RC-13 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO,
SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2010-71 – BILL #98: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH 3 RIVERS FIRE EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FEMA FIRE EQUIPMENT, CONTRACT 3 – THERMAL IMAGER, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000.00.

MOTION: Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco, "To adopt Bill #98."

RC-14 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO,
SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2010-72 – BILL #99: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICERS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PREMIER SAFETY AND SERVICE, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF FEMA FIRE EQUIPMENT, CONTRACT 4 – FIRE HOSE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,705.60.

MOTION: Mr. Tedesco moved, seconded by Mr. Segina, "To adopt Bill #99."

RC-15 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO,
SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2010-73 – BILL #100: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SELECTION POLICY #430-07-06 FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – ENGINEERING – IN THIRD PARTY AGREEMENTS.

MOTION: **Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco, "To adopt Bill #100."**

RC-16 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

 NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. McLaughlin said before they get any further into the Agenda, he sees they have an honored guest in the audience, the President of Council from Port Vue, Mr. Tortorice. He said Mr. Tortorice would like to come up and say something. He said he is bringing his sidekick, Joan Winters, with him.
- Mr. Tortorice, President of Council in Port Vue, introduced himself and said he has been in Port Vue politics for about 30 years. He said this is our Borough Manager, Joan Winters. He said they just wanted to come as McKeesport's good neighbor and publicly let them know that they enjoy working with the City of McKeesport and that McKeesport has been a great neighbor to them. He said there are a few things they wanted to say to Jim. He said they wish him well and he did an excellent job as their Mayor but he also helped the Borough of Port Vue in many ways. He said for about 20 some years they have been trying to get that little red light at the end of the McKeesport Bridge to make a left to go up to Port Vue where there were many accidents. He said he is sure Council had to deal with it too. He said it got done in the

last few years when Jimmy was the Mayor. He said the residents of the Borough of Port Vue, came to their meeting and thanked them and they told them to go to the City of McKeesport because they were the ones that took care of it. He said recently the guard rail up there that comes down Romine was in a dangerous condition, and McKeesport took care of it. He said Jim said a lot of great things tonight but he is sure he has done many, many more. He said they couldn't have sent a better guy to Harrisburg to be their Senator because he is a fighter and a go-getter. He said Jim knows how to work with people and can bring people together, he has seen it many times. He said they just wanted to come as their neighbor and thank them for always taking care of them. He said they look at McKeesport as their big brothers and sisters. He said see that guy who is President of Council, when he was in 8th grade at St. Joseph's playing basketball, he was his referee.

- Mr. McLaughlin said Mark didn't tell them that the two coaches called him when St. Angela's and St. Joe's played each other. He said thank you Mark.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

- Ms. Williams said the bills amount to \$30,148.25.
 - Mr. McLaughlin said are there any questions about the bills. He asked Mr. Pittman if they have the money to pay the bills.
 - Mr. Pittman said yes.

MOTION: **Mr. Cherepko moved, seconded by Ms. Diggs, "To approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$30,148.25."**

RC-17 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. Segina said he would like to submit the name of Regis McLaughlin to be the next Mayor.
- Mr. Tedesco seconded the nomination.
- Mr. McLaughlin accepted the nomination and asked if there were any other nominations.

MOTION: Mr. Segina moved, seconded by Mr. Tedesco, "To nominate Regis McLaughlin as Mayor of McKeesport to complete Jim Brewster's unfulfilled term."

RC-18 YEAS: McLAUGHLIN, TEDESCO, WALKER, CHEREPKO, SEGINA, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA..... 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mr. McLaughlin said before he moves over there, he wanted to thank everyone for giving them his support. He said he is very honored and very thrilled. He said he will have an open door policy and will work with everyone. He said he thinks the City will move along just fine the same way it did with Jim as Mayor. He said the first thing on his Agenda ... like the Mayor gave donations to all these companies ... he is going to give the \$10,000 that Jim put in for the raise, back to the City.
- Mr. Cherepko said he wants to personally take this opportunity to congratulate Rege. He said congratulations. He said obviously as you know in this particular situation, that now creates a vacant spot on Council. He said with that being said it puts them in a tough situation on City Council. He said he could name 60-70 people off the top of his head that would serve this City in a wonderful capacity. He said looking back and in his opinion, he came up with one thing that he finds to be the best way to make this decision. He said that is the decision that came on behalf of the people. He said he

thinks they should look, it is his recommendation that they look at the most recent election that they had for Council and the next leading vote getter at that point was Dale McCall. He said he is going to make the recommendation ... in that situation it was the people who voted and it should not just be put up to them for political reasons or whatnot. He said Dale has served this City and took over when the Mayor took over the deficit looking Act 47 straight in the eye and was part of the team that put this City in the financially stable condition that it is in now. He said they have a lot more work to do as they heard and they are looking forward to doing that. He said he is going to ask for a motion at this time to appoint Dale McCall to City Council.

- Mr. Tedesco said he respectfully disagrees with Mike. He said he believes that this should be opened up to anyone in the City who feels that they want a shot at filling out that term. He said if they want to submit a resume within a certain timeframe that they set, subject to an interview by Council and then being selected.... He said he just doesn't believe they should be He said nothing against Dale because he likes Dale. He said he just doesn't believe they should be selecting one person at this meeting.
- Mr. Cherepko said he totally understand where he is coming from. He said he just thinks where they are with the transition of Rege going into the Mayor's position and the fact that they have an election right around the corner He said they can sit there and pick and choose and debate and become political but he would like to make that recommendation. He said as a matter of fact he is going to make the motion that they appoint him to Council.

MOTION: Mr. Cherepko moved, seconded by Ms. Diggs, "To appoint Dale McCall to Council to fill the term of Rege McLaughlin."

COMMENTS:

- Mr. Segina said before they take a vote on it, he would like to agree with Mr. Tedesco in this instance. He said it is only fair that they consider all applications of interested people in this City that want to become a Councilman. He said then again it is up to them as Council persons to select the best resume they possibly can to fill that seat. He said it is only for one year but it is an important year no matter what year they are in. He said he strongly disagrees with selecting anybody this evening. He said they should do it in their January meeting.
- Ms. Walker said she is inclined to agree with Mike. She said she is not sure if they open the process, how that would even look. She said how do you submit a resume for this and how do you interview for this. She said she worked very, very hard for this seat and the people placed her here. She said she is not sure how you would even open that process. She said what are the qualifications and what is in the job description. She said how is that even going to look.
- Mr. Segina said he thinks every other community around offers that same opportunity.
- Ms. Walker said she is not talking about everybody else, she is talking about this community. She said how would that even look. She said 50 people could submit
- Mr. Cherepko said he understands where they are coming from but he thinks with regards to an election three months away, they owe it to someone who put in the effort in before and that was the last leading vote getter from the public.
- Ms. Walker said she doesn't know how they would even do this.

RC-19 YEAS: WALKER, CHEREPKO, DIGGS, DELLAPENNA .. 4

NAYS: TEDESCO, SEGINA 2

Mr. Dale McCall was appointed to fill the vacancy on Council for Regis McLaughlin's unexpired term.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice President of Council Michael Cherepko adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Williams
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

APPROVED:

Michael E. Cherepko
Vice President of Council

daw